

By [Jane Koropsak](#) | July 6, 2011

A Visit from One U.S. Soldier — Thanks from Many Others for Care Packages

When Military Police Officer/U.S. Army Private First Class Michael Stanisci walked into the lobby of Building 400 wearing military camouflage, all heads turned. After all, it isn't every day that a uniformed soldier visits the Laboratory. Stanisci, the son of Lab employee Joe Stanisci of the Facility and Operations Directorate, is home on leave after being deployed to Afghanistan last January.



U.S. Army soldier Michael Stanisci (third from left) with his father, BNL employee Joe Stanisci (second from left), visited the Lab to thank AAP volunteers (from left) John McCaffrey, Joanne Rula-Delles, Robert Duffin, Lisa Metz, Joyce Fortunato, and Janet Sikora. Missing from the photo are AAP volunteers Susan Duffin, Michael Paquette, and Denise Rodgers.

Stanisci said he came to the Laboratory to extend a personal thank you to the AdoptaPlatoon (AAP) group. "Every month since I arrived in Afghanistan, a care package from the Lab's AdoptaPlatoon has arrived in my barracks," said Stanisci. "The package is loaded with everyday personal supplies and plenty of goodies. I wanted to extend my personal gratitude and let the AAP volunteers know how their efforts make a huge difference to me and my fellow soldiers. There is nothing better than getting a package from home, especially when it's full of chocolate and other snacks not readily available to us. For us, it's like celebrating your birthday once a month."

John McCaffrey, an employee in the Lab's Photon Sciences Directorate, a member of the Brookhaven Veterans Association and the team leader for AAP, is proud of the commitment and hard work of the AAP volunteers. "The Lab's AAP supports a specific adopted platoon, but also sends packages to BNL family members currently on active duty. These volunteers do a tremendous job and never let an opportunity pass where they can send off a package to members of our military. I commend them for their hard

work," he said. While shaking hands with Stanisci, McCaffrey asked if there was anything special he needed or wanted in the next care package. Stanisci's response: "Every care package is perfect."

But perhaps the most somber moment was when Joe Stanisci put his arm around his son's shoulders, kissed his cheek and said that Michael would return to Afghanistan on July 4th. "He arrived home just in time for his birthday and Father's Day. How appropriate it is that he returns on the 4th of July. I am so very proud of him," he said.

AAP recently reached a major milestone — 20,000 pounds of supplies and goodies sent to deployed soldiers. To raise funds for future care packages, AAP will be sponsoring a car wash on July 28, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lab firehouse.

To make donations to the AAP or to become a volunteer, contact McCaffrey at Ext. 8162 or email mccaffrey@bnl.gov.